

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 COA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

OMB-01 DRC-01 EURE-00 /144 W
----- 117945

P R 120815Z SEP 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2867
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNATO 274
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
DOD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SW, UK

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA USS FURER

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 3186; (B) STATE 157090; (C) STOCKHOLM 3092

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSION WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL
ASTROM THIS MORNING ON CSCE (STOCKHOLM 4034), ASTROM
HANDED ME AN AIDE MEMOIRE IN RESPONSE TO OUR REPLY OF
LAST JULY (REF A) TO GOS OVER ALLEGED VIOLATION OF
SWEDISH TERRITORIAL WATERS BY USS FURER (REF C). ASTROM
NOTED THAT IT WAS AIDE MEMOIRE RATHER THAN
FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE. POINTING OUT THAT MEMOIRE
DEALT WITH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND NOT RPT NOT WITH ALAND
STRAITS, ASTROM SAID THRUST OF SWEDISH POSITION WAS THAT
BREADTH OF SWEDISH TERRITORIAL SEA IS FOUR MILES AND THAT
PRIOR NOTIFICATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE TRAVERSING SUCH AN
AREA.

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2. I READ THE AIDE MEMOIRE AND SAID IT DID NOT RPT NOT ACCORD WITH OUR OWN VIEWS THAT THE MAXIMUM BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA PERMITTED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW IS THREE NAUTICAL MILES AND THAT WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL SEA ALL VESSELS, INCLUDING WARSHIPS, HAVE THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION. I ADDED THAT I DID NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE OUR RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE SWEDISH AID MEMOIRE.

3. AS I LEFT THE MFA, ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDEAST AFFAIRS BO JOHNSON (WHO IS ALSO MFA EXPERT ON TERRITORIAL WATERS), JOHNSON SAID THAT GOS HAD PRESENTED US WITH AIDEMEMOIRE ON QUESTION BECAUSE OF THE SWEDISH WISH TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO IN THE BALTIC. HE SAID SOVIETS VIOLATE SWEDISH TERRITORIAL WATERS "ABOUT 2 TIMES A WEEK, AND WE PROTEST EACH TIME." THEREFORE, JOHNSON CONCLUDED, GOS CONSIDERED THAT IF IT DID NOT PROTEST TO USG, IT WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS "EVEN HANDED".

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND GOS ALSO PROTESTED INFORMALLY TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE IN JULY FOR FAILURE TO REQUEST PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR PASSAGE OF HMS ACHILLES THROUGH THE ALAND STRAITS.

5. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF GOS CONCERN ON ISSUE OF TERRITORIAL WATERS IS MOTIVATED BY FEAR OF SOVIET ENCROACHMENTS IN SWEDISH WATERS.

6. FULL TEXT OF SWEDISH AIDEMEMOIRE AND ACCOMPANYING PAPERS BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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